

Fergus Petroleum Co FSA
211 McKinley St – Ste 2
Lewistown MT 59457

Phone (406) 538-3489
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*The Fergus-Petroleum County
Committee regular scheduled meeting
is the first Wednesday of each month.*

County Committee Members

Dan Boyce, Chairperson
Stuart Skinner, Vice-Chairperson
Judy Hedman, Reg Member
Jill Knerr, Reg Member
Steve Morris, Reg Member

FSA Office Personnel & Phone Extension Numbers

John Nahrgang, CED.....108
Kim Billadeau, PT.....110
Karen Boyles, FLM.....113
Vickie Baumgartner, PT.....107
Michele Gilpatrick, PT.....106
Les Melichar, PT105
Alta Pallett, PT.....109
Cheryl Tucek, CPT104
John Ahlgren, Field

Dates to Remember:

May 15-July 15 – FSA State
Committee established Primary
Nesting Season for CRP

May 15-August 1 – Primary Nesting
Season for CRP contracts affected by
the National Wildlife Federations
settlement agreement with FSA

June 2 – Critical feed program signup

June 15 – COC Nominations Open

Notice of Loss – filed within 15
calendar days of the natural disaster
occurrence or the date the damage to
the crop or loss of production was
apparent

July 15 – deadline to provide 2007
production for NAP APH

July 15 – 2007 NAP Application for
Payment Deadline

July 15 – Acreage report deadline

July 18 – LIP/LCP Deadline

August 1 – Deadline for
restitutions

September 30 – October 1 – Women
Stepping Forward for Agriculture
Symposium, Billings



Fergus-Petroleum FSA

June 2008

LIP and LCP Signup Announced

The deadline date for the
2005-2007 Livestock
Compensation Program
(LCP) and Livestock
Indemnity Program (LIP) has
been set for July 18, 2008.



LIP provides payments to
eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the
death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides
payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who
suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a
natural disaster.

Signup began on September 10, 2007 for the two programs
that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible
livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005 and
December 30, 2007 because of a natural disaster.

CDP Quantity payments

Signup for the quantity (production loss) loss portion of the
2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15,
2007 and continues. Although no ending signup date has been
announced, we encourage all producers who have not yet
signed up for CDP to do so as soon as possible. Payments will
be delayed on all CDP production loss applications that are not
approved and paid prior to receipt of the Quality loss software,
which is expected to be issued around June 20, 2008. Signup
dates for quality loss CDP applications will be announced in the
near future.

Certification pick-up dates

We will again be going out to the following locations to pick
up your marked maps and completed worksheets:

June 10: Winnett Courthouse, 9–11 a.m.

Grass Range School, 1–3 p.m.

June 11: Roy School, 9–11 a.m.

Winifred Community Center, City Office 1-3 p.m.

June 12: Denton School Library, 9–11 a.m.

The information provided on the worksheets will then be data
loaded into the computer and the computer generated
certification needs to be signed **by July 15, 2008.**

COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions. A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. This year, LAA-2 and LAA-4 will hold elections. LAA-2 is the area east of the highway running north and south through Grass Range and Roy and north of the highway running east and west from Grass Range through Winnett. LAA-4 is the area east of the Snowy Mountains and east and south of the highway running north from Lewistown through Hilger and Roy all the way to MT Highway 19 or US Highway 87.

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Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(02-25-08)U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
		6A. COUNTY
		6B. LAA NO.
		7. STATE
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ITEM 5 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

FSA Announces Critical Feed Program

FSA has announced the authorization of certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing after the **primary nesting season ends which is August 1st in Montana**. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for the critical feed use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged per contract to process the contract modification. The fee must be paid prior to the local FSA county committee approving the contract modification. The fee is not refundable.

Beginning June 2, 2008, eligible CRP participants may sign up for the critical feed use practice at their local FSA office. Participants must submit a modification to their conservation plan. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All haying and grazing must be completed no later than November 10, 2008. The critical feed use practice may be used on CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for haying or grazing or may lease the privilege to any other individual. CRP participants may not hay and graze the same acreage. CRP participants must leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed. Only one cutting of hay is permitted. CRP participants wishing to graze their CRP acreage must leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

Eligible acreage includes acreage devoted to: 1) CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes; 2) CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses; 3) CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors; 4) CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat; 5) CP10, Vegetative Cover – Grass – Already Established; 6) CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity; 7) CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover. Acreage is eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established.

Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or
- adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP.

A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

If a Notice-of-Loss is filed prior to the final planting date established for the specific crop, the producer is expected to replant the crop. If the Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.

COC Open House

An Open House will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled County Committee meeting on **June 3, 2008** from **11 a.m. to noon**. Come and discuss FSA programs and the Committee's role in administering farm programs.

U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
FERGUS-PETROLEUM COUNTY FSA
211 MCKINLEY ST – STE 2
LEWISTOWN MT 59457-2266

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

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ECP Signup Announced**

Important Dates to Remember

**June 2 – Final loan availability date for various crops
June 2 – Critical Feed Program Signup Begins
June 3 – Open House at County Committee Meeting
June 15 – COC nominations open
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days of the natural
disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the
crop or loss of production was apparent
July 15 – Acreage report deadline
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline**

2007 Census of Agriculture

It is not too late to turn in your Census of Agriculture. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) wants everyone who received a census form to return the form or call NASS toll free at 1-888-424-7828. Even if you are a landlord or have a few chickens or a horse, NASS wants to account for your form. Your information can be taken over the phone by calling the toll-free number.

For further information contact the Montana Ag Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Available

Fergus and Petroleum Counties have been approved for ECP. Signup began May 27th and will end on June 23, 2008.
Producers should submit their application for ECP funding before starting a practice. To apply for ECP funds, producers must complete an application during a visit to the office. Failure to do so may jeopardize their eligibility for cost-share.

This program is designed to provide water in pastures that otherwise could not immediately be grazed because the existing water sources have failed. It is not a program to develop water for late fall or winter grazing. Hauling water for livestock may also be covered by this program. Cost-share levels are established at 50% of actual cost not to exceed established amounts. There must be a failed water source and available grass in pastures to be eligible for this program. Cost-share may be limited based on acres served and possibly by the funding received for the counties. All proposed practices will have to have an environmental review performed on the area affected prior to approval of cost share and if possible prior to starting the practice.

Emergency practices include pipelines, tanks, troughs, constructing or deepening wells and spring developments. Cost-share levels and eligibility requirements are determined in approved counties by the local FSA county committee. Permanent practices must be maintained for 10 years.